

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed August 10, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Application in view of the foregoing Amendments and the following Remarks. The claims as now presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 15-19 have been allowed. Claims 1-4 and 8-11 have been canceled, and claims 5-7 and 12-14 have been amended. Claims 5-7 and 12-19 remain in this application, of which claims 5, 12, and 15 are independent claims. Claims 20-22 have been newly added to depend from claim 5, and claims 23-25 have been newly added to depend from claim 12.

Rejection of Claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0067734 to Nakano (hereafter referred to as "Nakano").

Claims 1 and 8 have been canceled.

Rejection of Claims 2-4 and 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 2-4 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakano in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,880,923 to Hausmann.

Claims 2-4 and 9-11 have been canceled.

Rejection of Claims 6, 7, 13, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 6, 7, 13, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakano in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0006556 to Gianoulakis et al.

Claims 6 and 7 have been amended to depend from claim 5. Claims 13 and 14 have been amended to depend from claim 12.

The Examiner states that claims 5 and 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 5 and 12 have been so amended.

Amended claims 6 and 7, which depend from and further limit claim 5, are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 5 is allowable as stated above.

Amended claims 13 and 14, which depend from and further limit claim 12, are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 12 is allowable as stated above.

Newly Added Claims

Newly added claims 20-22, which depend from and further limit claim 5, are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 5 is allowable as stated above.

Newly added claims 23-25, which depend from and further limit claim 12, are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 12 is allowable as stated above.

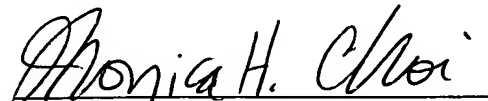
Conclusions

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Please feel free to contact the undersigned should any questions arise with respect to this case that may be addressed by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,
for the Applicant(s)

Dated: November 10, 2006

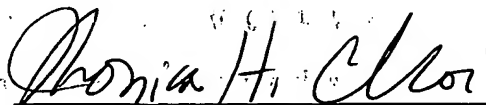
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE is being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 10th day of November, 2006.



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